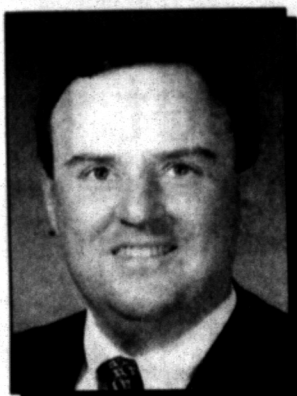


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A mystery simply answered

We humans have a tendency to believe we've figured out just about everything important there is left to figure out, probably because the thought gives us security and confidence in the world of random, unanticipated problems and uninterrupted crises in which we find ourselves situated. That's why it's so fun when something comes along that shakes up the fragile grip we have on our own understanding of the forces of nature in the hands of God.

The web site, Space.com., recently announced that astronomers are on the verge of witnessing something that's never before been observed by humans: a dying star in the throes of becoming a supernova.

When a star such as our sun begins to run out of the fuel that gives it life, it can collapse under the weight of all the heavy elements left over from the nuclear fusion process. If the dying star is big enough, and the heavy elements heavy enough, the star's remaining material can be compressed to the point that an explosion of

unimaginable proportions can occur.

In a nutshell, that's a supernova.

Up to now, scientists have been unable to see a supernova before it exploded because there has been no earthly way to detect when the ticking time bomb would go off. We can see the aftermath of a supernova explosion through such modern scientific equipment as the Hubble Space Telescope — or sometimes with the naked eye, if the explosion is big enough — but not the time just before the explosion.

That's important for a number of reasons lost on most of us, so we'll not take up those points in this limited amount of space. Suffice to say, though, that the ability to foresee a supernova explosion is very important to the scientific community.

According to Space.com, it is now known that in the final hours of a red supergiant — the final stage of a star before the supernova occurs — ultraviolet light peaks can be observed, meaning the supernova explosion is on the way. When the supernova occurs, the contents of the star are blasted into space at 20 million miles per hour in a fireball that's a billion times brighter than our own sun.

During the final hours of a red supergiant, though, the collapsing heavy elements generate an immense shock wave and radiation that heats the star's surface to several hundred thousand degrees Celsius. In the instant before the shock wave reaches the surface of the star and triggers the supernova

explosion, the star is so hot that it is producing the luminosity of a thousand billion suns.

In a typical supernova event, scientists wouldn't know about the explosion until several days later when the light from the explosion reaches earth.

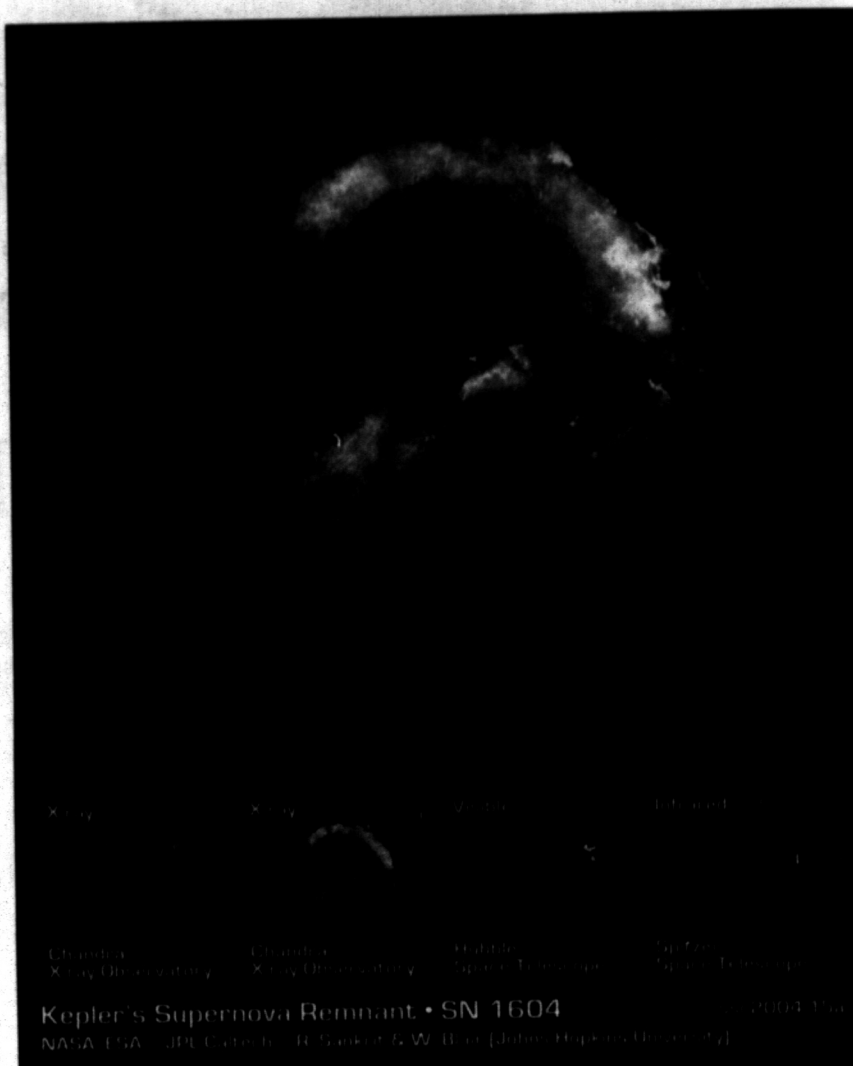
Not this time. Supernova SNLS-04D2dc was caught in the act, and the scientific community recorded another first.

"We saw the whole thing," Kevin Schawinski of the University of Oxford told Space.com. "We saw the radiative precursor, this UV light, moving ahead [of the shock wave]. We saw that arrive and then the point at which the shock wave comes to the surface and destroys the star. In a sense we could see the shock move inside the star because the light from the shock was moving ahead of it."

"This is a whole new avenue into studying the late stages of massive stars," fellow Oxford researcher Christian Wolf told Space.com. "Most of what we know today is based on computer simulations. But as always when you test theory against observations for the first few times, we may be in for surprises."

Scientists may be surprised, but Christians aren't. We've known all along that our God, who is capable of speaking the universe into existence (Genesis 1) is also more than capable of the forming the forces that can produce the light of a thousand billion suns in a split second of time and then rocket solar debris into space at 20 million miles per hour. We may not understand how, but we know He can do it.

The big mystery to us is why God, wielding that much power and majesty, would be interested in each one of us (Psalm 8:3-4), but the answer is really simple: He loves each of us as His child. He loves us so much that He wants us to spend eternity with Him. He loves us so



Kepler's Supernova Remnant • SN 1604

BEYOND COMPREHENSION — NASA's three space-based Great Observatories — the Hubble Space Telescope, the Spitzer Space Telescope, and the Chandra X-ray Observatory — joined forces to probe the expanding remains of a supernova, called Kepler's supernova remnant, first seen 400 years ago by sky watchers and similar to an extraordinary supernova event witnessed recently by scientists. The combined image unveils a bubble-shaped shroud of gas and dust that is 14 light-years wide and is expanding at 4 million miles per hour (2,000 kilometers per second). Observations from each telescope highlight distinct features of the supernova remnant, a fast-moving shell of iron-rich material from the exploded star, surrounded by an expanding shock wave that is sweeping up interstellar gas and dust. (Photos courtesy of NASA/ESA/R. Sankrit and W. Blair/Johns Hopkins University.)

much that He is willing to die to make that happen, through His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

As cocky as we are, we're not really all that smart. When we can ourselves produce the light of a thousand billion suns, perhaps we will have accomplished something but even that will still be a tiny drop in comparison to God's infinite power.

The truth is that there is a God, and there is a beloved Son of God in whom we can fully believe. Even the power of a thousand billion suns can't change that.

Meridian missions vol dies in Dominican Republic

Funeral services were held June 24 for Jeff Greenway, 42, a deacon at Highland Church, Meridian, who died June 17 while on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. He is survived by his wife Ashley and daughter Madison, both of Meridian.

"We grateful for the prayers and kind words of love and support that have been extended to us," said Ashley Greenway. "Jeff was doing what he loved to do, which was reaching out to help others in the name of Jesus Christ. We will miss him very much."



Jeff Greenway was a member of an eight-person team that traveled to the Dominican Republic under a partnership between Lauderdale Association and Dominican Baptists.

Greenway, who was self-employed in the construction business, was a member of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force and served several deployments on the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. He served in Thailand after the

December 2005 tsunami and in Nicaragua in 2008 as a construction coordinator. He also served in Honduras in 2008.

In 2007, he was part of a team from the Missions Mobilization Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board that traveled to Cambodia for medical, construction, and other ministry work. He became interested in developing support for a hospital in that country and planned to return in August of this year.

"We have faith in the love of God and the sufficiency of Jesus Christ," said Highland Church pastor Carl White. "Jeff died while working to share that love with others. His eternal destiny is secure. I hope and pray that his life will serve as an inspiration to others."

Physician remembered on 100th birthday

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — If he had lived, Bill Wallace would be 100 years old now, but the Southern Baptist missionary and dedicated surgeon — beloved by nearly all who knew him — died alone 57 years ago in a cold jail cell far from home.

Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville, named for the martyred missionary, recently celebrated the centennial of his birth. More than celebrating his birth, however, the church wants Southern Baptists to remember his life.

To help future Baptist leaders know the story of this real-life hero, the church has partnered with Holman Bible Outreach International to reprint his biography, *Bill Wallace of China* by Jesse Fletcher, first published in 1963.

"The servant leadership model... needs to be rekindled in Baptist life," said Mike Boyd, Wallace Memorial Church's pastor. The story and example of Bill Wallace needs to be put back in the hands of Southern Baptists, Boyd said, to say anew that, "We've been called to serve people."

Phill Burgess, executive director of Holman Bible Outreach International, agreed. Holman is producing a translation of the New Testament for overseas distribution. As part of their partnership with Wallace Memorial Church, one copy of the translated Scriptures will be sent to the mission field for every copy sold of the Wallace biography, Burgess said.

"The work of Bill Wallace is not finished," Burgess said. "Our whole goal is to get God's Word in the hands of a lost and hurting world."

Holman supplied 1,000 copies of the biography to Wallace Memorial Church. Boyd wants to place a copy in the hands of every graduating student at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, where he is an alumnus and a trustee.

"Christianity is what motivated [Wallace] to use his surgical skills on the field," Boyd said.

Wallace's service in southern China began in 1935 but his call to missions came while he was still a teenager. A doctor's son, he was born in Knoxville in 1908. As a boy he tagged along as his father visited patients, but he was more interested in fixing cars than healing the sick.

That changed when he heard God's call to medical missions at age 17. After college and medical school, Wallace was appointed in 1935 as a missionary to southern China at the Baptist-operated Stout Memorial Hospital in Wuchow (now Wuzhou).

A quiet man, Wallace's love for God was evident in his actions. Patients and co-workers at the hospital experienced Christ's love through Wallace's acts of selflessness. When it was time to sleep, he made sure his staff and patients had blankets and a place to rest their head first. When it was time to eat, he waited for everyone else to eat.

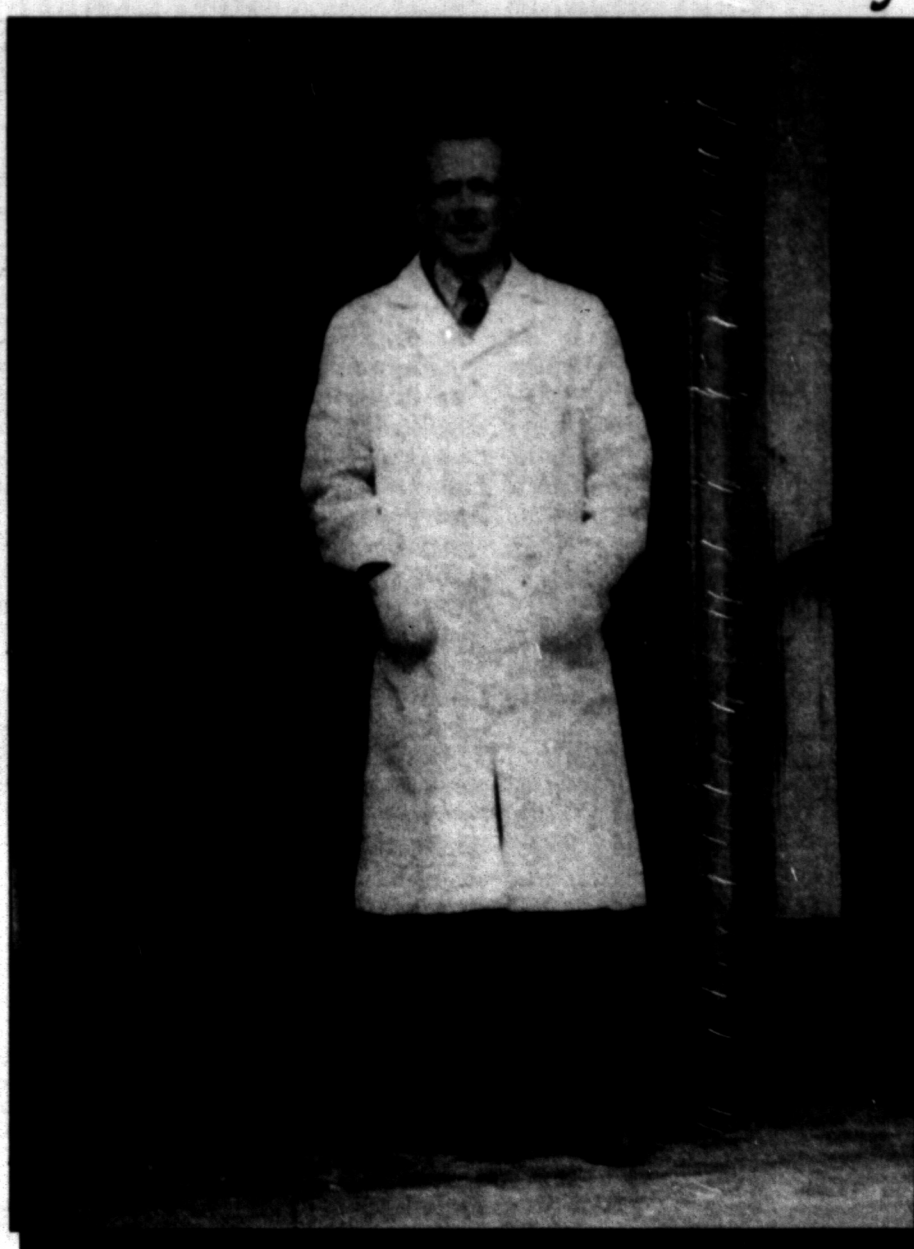
"We've lost the heart of servant leadership in our culture," Boyd said. "Bill Wallace optimizes what servant leadership is all about."

On a foggy night in December 1950, Wallace's faith was tested when his home was ransacked by Chinese military. They claimed to find a gun hidden under his pillow and accused him of being a spy. He was arrested, thrown into a dingy prison cell, and tricked into signing a spurious confession.

Wallace was severely beaten, ridiculed, interrogated, and accused of "murdering and maiming Chinese patients, of performing illegal and obscene operations," Fletcher wrote.

To keep his sanity, the doctor wrote Scripture passages from memory, denials of guilt, and protests of innocence. He grew despondent in his final days, but he never stopped sharing Christ. He ministered to his guards, fellow prisoners, and the townsfolk who passed by his cell window.

His love for Jesus and the Chinese people cost him his life. Two months after being jailed, on the morning of Feb. 10, 1951,



MARTYRED — Southern Baptist missionary surgeon Bill Wallace worked through Japanese bombing raids on southern China during World War II as stretchers of the wounded lined the halls of Baptist-operated Stout Memorial Hospital in Wuchow (now Wuzhou). He died mysteriously in 1951 while imprisoned by the communists after they swept to power in China. (BP photo)

Wallace was found hanging from a beam in his cell. Few believed the 43-year-old doctor had committed suicide. His body bore little evidence of a hanging but plenty marks of physical abuse.

"Quietly, his soul slipped from his torn body and his exhausted mind and went to be with the One he had so faithfully and [unselfishly] served," Fletcher wrote. "Bill Wallace was dead to the world, but alive forever with God."

Wallace was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in Wuchow. Chinese friends later erected a

monument engraved with these words from the Apostle Paul: "For to me to live is Christ."

In 1985, his remains were returned to his stateside home. He was laid to rest next to his parents at the Greenwood Cemetery in Knoxville. An exact replica of the monument in China now stands at his Tennessee gravesite, inscribed with the words, "For to me to live is Christ."

The memorial edition of *Bill Wallace of China* will be available in LifeWay and other bookstores and on lifeway.com in July.

Woman sentenced

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Georgia woman has been sentenced to a year in jail after forging a letter of parental notification for her son's 16-year-old girlfriend to have an abortion — and the clinic that performed the procedure may face legal consequences as well. Cindi Cook, 44, received the sentence, which is the maximum for a misdemeanor, from a judge in DeKalb County, Ga., in early June after being found guilty of custody interference and of a violation of the state's parental notice law. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported June 12. Cook "searched for a clinic that did not require a parent to be present," county solicitor general Robert James said, according to the newspaper. She pressured the pregnant girl to have the abortion, forged the required parental notice letter, and paid for the procedure at Northside Women's Clinic in Chamblee, Ga., the newspaper reported. James' office is investigating whether the abortion clinic broke state law, he told the newspaper. Under Georgia's parental notification requirement, a parent is to be notified by telephone or certified mail if he/she will not be present for the abortion, The Journal-Constitution reported.

Looking back

10 years ago

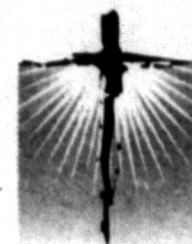
Nineteen people from the BSU of Pearl River Community College in Poplarville recently participated in a missions project to Peru May 15 - 26. The project was coordinated by IMB missionaries Kevin and Pam Shearer and BSU director Morris Baker.

20 years ago

Southern Baptists remain divided over the SBC controversy, the convention's state newspaper editors agree. Jerry Vines' razor-thin election to the SBC presidency marks the 10th consecutive presidential victory by conservatives.

50 years ago

McComb native Pat Clendinning, Jr., and his wife are appointed missionaries to Europe by the Foreign Mission Board, with Clendinning teaching at the seminary in Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 26, 2008

VOL. 132

No. 26



**YOU CAN RESPOND
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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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PBI XCEV EWH D VC WSP
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MSCTOVD ZNHZBNHO
RVN IVX RNVD EWH RVX-
COBESVC VR EWH
YVNGO.
DBEEWHY EYHCEI-RSKH:
EWSNEI-RVXN

Clue: : M=K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ezekiel Twenty Twenty

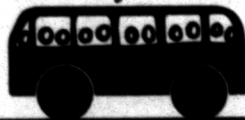
NOT A GOOD QUESTION

I have received scores of calls from people who are checking references on persons for potential staff positions. Some of the questions are standard, and you can anticipate them and generally answer them. Other questions may be tailored from their experiences, and you can pretty much tell what is going on in the church or what the relationship with the former church leader was like. One of the almost standard questions that people ask is, "What are the person's strengths and weaknesses?"

At times, I am almost tempted to answer as one fellow did and say, "His strengths are deer and turkey hunting. His weaknesses are fishing and golfing." I refrain from doing that and try to give an honest and straightforward assessment. Usually, it is fairly easy to flag the strengths, but when it comes to weaknesses I have difficulty for a number of reasons.

One reason why it is difficult to highlight a person's weaknesses is that you may not know what they are. Another equally important reason is that if you do know what they are and you tell the folks, then when and if they see the prospective candidate that is what they will be looking for. It is somewhat like looking at a full white page that has one small black dot in the center. Over 99% of the area is white and unmarred, but you are unable to take

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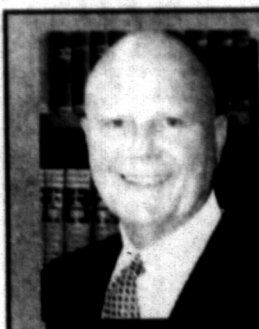
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Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
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your eyes off that one spot in the middle.

Here is the most significant reason why I usually find it difficult to point to someone's weaknesses. It is because when a person has a right spirit and a desire to grow and become everything that God wants them to be when they recognize that they have a weakness they will begin to give attention to it to learn, to grow, to excel, to overcome, and to improve to the point where on many occasions what was a weakness becomes a strength. I have seen that in so many people's lives related to so many different issues and areas.

It is like the kid who cannot hit a free throw but then begins to spend hour after hour in the gym practicing, shooting, trying, and scoring. In time that kid becomes a free throw leader on the team. At worst he becomes a better free throw

shooter because of an intense desire to improve and to excel.

Finally, I think that it is important that we recognize what is oftentimes just simply overlooked and that is that weaknesses or maybe deficiencies in our lives could be an act of God. Let me explain. The Apostle Paul struggled with whatever it was that he described as a "thorn in the flesh." He pled with God to remove it and set him free from that thorn. He describes it to the church at Corinth as a "thorn sent by Satan, but used by God." Think that through. Could it be that a weakness, a deficiency in some of our lives, even if brought on by Satan, could be miraculously used by God to make us into better people, servants, and pastors. Now I don't want to venture a guess as to what the thorn in the flesh might have been, but some have argued with good reason and support that it could have

been an on going problem of ill health. It could have been extremely poor eyesight or it could have been some other malady that kept him from feeling free to go and do whatever the Lord wanted him to accomplish. Regardless of what it was Paul tells us that God took it and used it to keep him humble and dependent on the Lord. Instead of God removing the thorn, it allowed him in the Lord to be more. It is glorious how the grace of God can change and channel even weaknesses and deficiencies into mighty works in His hands.

No doubt many of you have observed as I have that God often picks out someone to lift up and use who may not be the biggest, or the brightest, or the most beautiful, or the most handsome, or the most intellectual, or the one with the most pleasant voice and mightily touches lives in spite of the weaknesses. It may be God's desire to do such a thing and it also may even be His design.

So as you look at other folks whether you are searching for a pastor or talking to a friend and you see some weaknesses instead of factoring them in as something bad, factor God's power into their lives, and see them as something good.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS



5. Calvary Church, Oak Grove



6. First Church, Glendale, Hattiesburg



7. First Church, Vicksburg

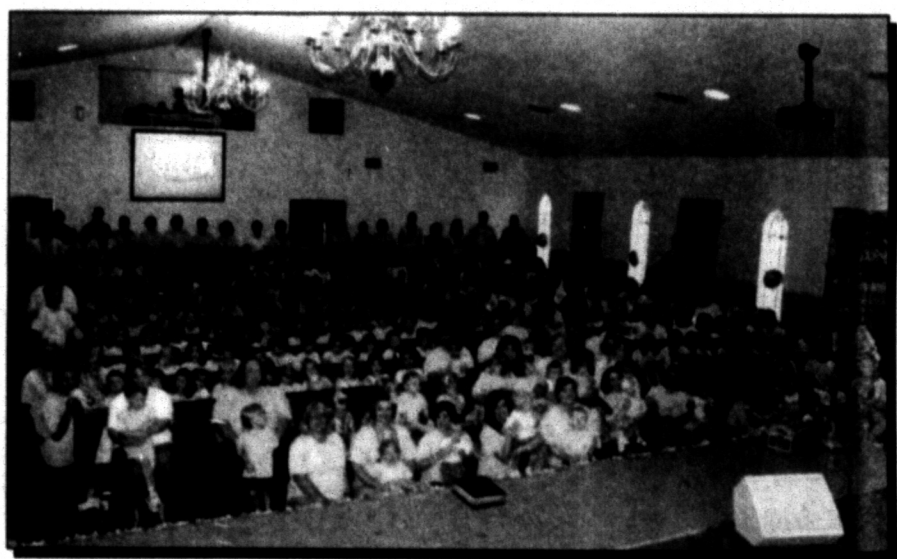
1. **First Church, Marion:** July 7 - 11, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.; ages 3 - 6th grade.
2. **New Fellowship Church, Hickory:** July 7 - 11, 6 - 8 p.m.; for information, call (601) 683-3839.
3. **First Church, Marion:** July 7 - 11, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.; ages 3 - 6th grade; for information, call (601) 485-9503.
4. **Gunter Road Church, Florence:** June 29 - July 2, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
5. **Calvary Church, Oak Grove,** held its VBS on June 2-6. Shown are participants.
6. **First Church, Glendale, Hattiesburg** held VBS recently. Shown are the participants.
7. Kevin Hurt, minister of discipleship and missions at **First Church, Vicksburg,** prepares to kiss a lizrd after the girls contributed more offering than the boys during Vacation Bible School. The \$1,269.47 collected will be donated to City View Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, for the missionary expenses of Donna Reine and family of Vicksburg.
8. **First Church, Batesville,** June 2 - 6; shown are the participants.
9. **Sardis Church, Neshoba County,** held VBS recently. Shown are the participants.
10. **Fredonia Church, New Albany:** June 2 - 6. Shown are the participants.
11. **First Church, Potts Camp:** June 8 - 12, with 11 professions of faith.



8. First Church, Batesville



9. Sardis Church, Neshoba County



10. Fredonia Church, New Albany



11. First Church, Potts Camp

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NEEDED: PIANIST FOR MT. MORIAH Baptist Church, Marwood Loop, Bogue Chitto, Miss. This is a salary position. For more information call 601-833-8858 or 601-810-6149.

YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED: MT. MORIAH Baptist Church, Lincoln county, is seeking a youth minister. For more information, please send resume, with at least 5 references, to search committee, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, 814 Marwood Loop, SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629, 601-833-8858.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY CHURCH seeks part-time minister of music. Send resume to Briarwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3231, Meridian, MS 39303.

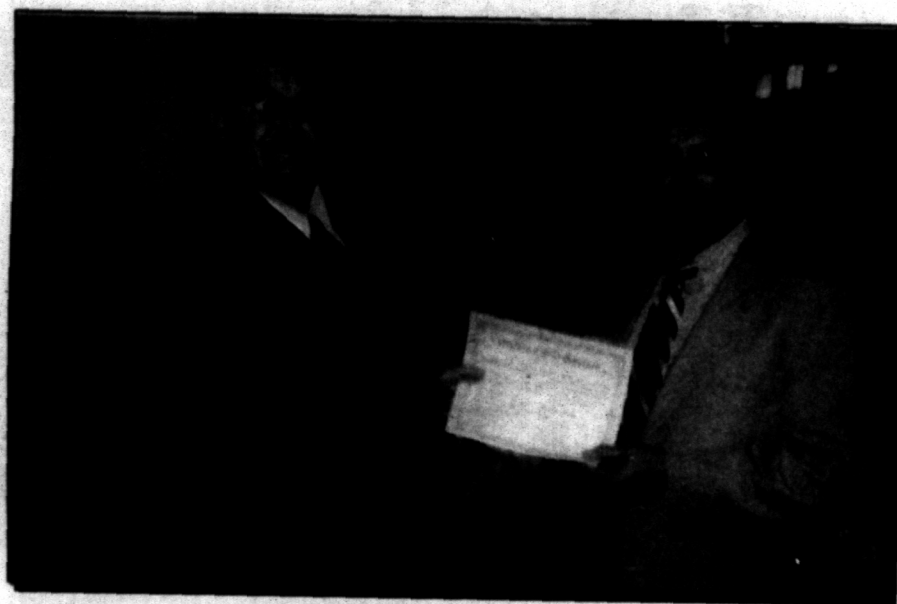
JUST FOR THE RECORD



7. Bowman and Ross, Star Church



8. Grubbs, Tylertown Church



9. Ordination, Wesson Church



10. Deacon ordination, Rolling Creek Church

1. **Bethel Church, Brandon**, will host Tim Frith and the Gospel Echoes June 29, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received; for information, call (601) 212-8305.

2. **Temple Church, Hattiesburg**, will celebrate July 4 with a patriotic celebration and community picnic June 29. Services will be held at both the east and west campuses, with professional fireworks, concerts, games, and refreshments. For more information, call (601) 450-3000; to see a video about the event, visit www.tbclife.net.

3. The youth of **Cleary Church, Florence**, have partnered with Voice of the Martyrs to send 50 action packs to Pakistan. The packs include a gospel storybook, blankets, jackets and windbreakers, sweaters, knit hats, socks, and other items. Contributions to this mission project may be dropped off at the church; for more information, call (601) 845-2020.

4. **Vaiden Church, Vaiden**, will host Karen Peck and New River in concert July 13, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.

5. **Calvary Church, Waynesboro**, will sponsor the Beth Moore Simulcast Aug. 1 and 2, Fri. - 6:30 p.m. until Sat., noon. Tickets are available at the church office; for information, call (601) 735-2333.

6. The **Clark County Baptist Center** held a dedication ceremony June 14. The \$140,000, 2400 sq. foot building was paid in full May 2. The old building was severely damaged by Katrina in 2005.

7. **Star Church, Star**, licensed Tom Ross, Jr., to the ministry Mar. 30. Shown are pastor Vic Bowman and Ross.

8. **Tylertown Church, Tylertown**, recently recognized Uta Grubbs for 60 years of service as church accompanist. She was given a certificate from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board presented by former student Sarah Talley, and a plaque and gift from the church. Shown are Charles Ball, Grubbs, and pastor Buddy Day.

9. **Wesson Church, Wesson**, ordained Ronnie Irwin to the ministry Mar. 16. Shown are pastor and father-in-law Ronny Robinson and Irwin.

10. **Rolling Creek Church, Clarke Association**, ordained Tommy Scott, Johnny Rivers, Jace Chancellor, and Chris Dew as deacons May 25. Shown are Scott, Rivers, AMD Grady Crowell, pastor Ronnie Cooper, Chancellor, Dew, and Mark Moss.

11. **Shiloh Church, Calhoun Association**, recently ordained Ken Edgeworth as deacon. Shown are Johnny Hearn, Edgeworth, and Michael Waldrop.

12. **Eastwood Church, Indianola**, held a baby dedication service May 11. Shown, from left, are Don Davis, Susan Davis, Eric Fondren with William Bradley; and Janet Burden, Leslie and B.J. Shake with Jamie Elise. Billy Thomas, pastor.

13. The Ruth Sunday School class of **North Oxford Church, Oxford**, prepared a bucket for in-home health care for AIDS patients in Africa under the Baptist Global Response mission program. Shown are the participants.



11. Deacon ordination, Shiloh Church

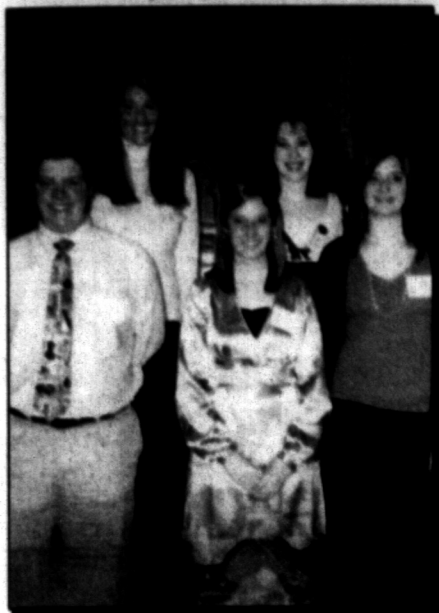


12. Baby dedication, Eastwood Church

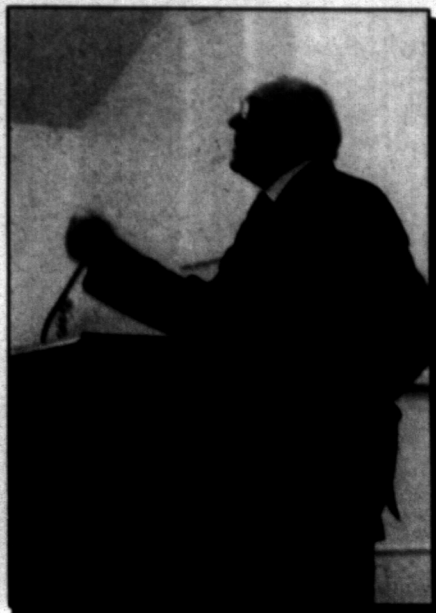


13. North Oxford Church

JUST FOR THE RECORD



14. Keyboard Festival participants



15. Oaks, County Line Church

14. **Woodland Hills Church, Jackson**, recognizes its State Youth Keyboard Festival Participants and Summer Scholarship award recipients. From left, back row: Shannon Kynerd, Brandon; and Chloe Rose Faulk, Eupora; front row, Philip Shackelford, Ripley; Laura Davion, Hattiesburg; and Jennifer Hartline, Ridgeland. Davion also is the 2008 College Scholarship award (piano) to William Carey University.

15. **County Line Church, Walnut**, celebrated its 2008 homecoming services June 1 with performances by their youth and children's choirs, guest speaker W.L. Oaks, and afternoon singing with the Turner Family.

16. **First Church, Kosciusko**, ordained Tony McGee and Mark Clark as deacons May 18. Shown are pastor Barry Corbett, McGee, Tammy McGee, Lib Clark, and Clark.

17. **Bethel Church, Louisville**, licensed Greg Thomas to the ministry recently. Shown are Jennifer Thomas, Donna Thomas, Thomas, and pastor David Keen.

18. **The Neshoba Baptist Center** is sponsoring the Christian Women's Job Corp, available to any female in the community that is unemployed or underemployed. The first graduation exercises were held May 5, with eight women graduating from the program.

19. **Leflore Church, Holcomb**, ordained Nathan Gorman to the Gospel ministry on April 4, Gorman serves the church as youth minister. Pictured (from let) are Brittney Gorman, Nathan Gorman, Danille Gorman, Beckie Gorman, and pastor Larry Livingston.

No BR issue on July 3

Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the news journal will not publish on July 3. All news items to be included in the July 10 issue must be received in the offices of The Baptist Record by deadline of the close of business on July 3. For more information, contact The Baptist Record at (601) 292-3375 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 375. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



19. Leflore Church, Holcomb



16. Deacon ordination, First Church, Kosciusko



17. Bethel Church, Louisville



18. Christian Women's Job Corp

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. First Church, Taylorsville



2. FBC Richton Graduates

1. **First Church, Taylorsville**, graduated its 25th kindergarten class on May 14, with 90 students. A special service was held on March 30 to recognize programs past and present teachers.

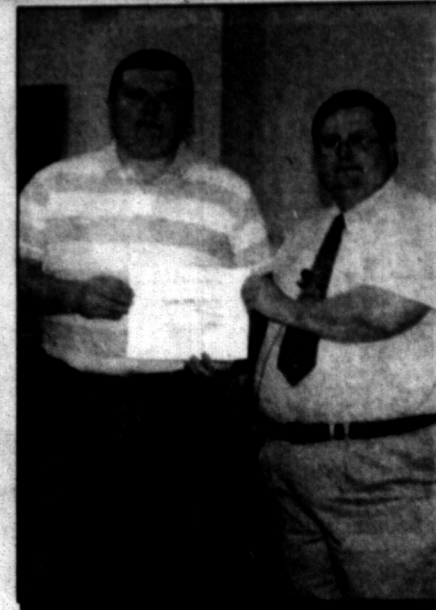
2. **First Church, Richton**, recently honored members graduating from Richton High School with a Senior Walk Sunday. Pictured are graduates who were recognized and presented a gift from the church.

3. The three-year-old Sunday School class at **Macedonia Church, Petal**, recently collected food for a family in need, learning about love in action and kindness for other people. Pictured are (from left) Caleb Reed, Josie Young, John Turner Soldinie, and Fayth Michelle Hodge.

4. **Bethlehem Church, Winona**, licensed Jonathan Edward Holifield to the gospel ministry. Shown are Holifield and pastor David Rogers.



3. Macedonia Church, Petal



4. Holifield and Rogers, Bethlehem Church



The Baptist Record
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Mississippi Baptists

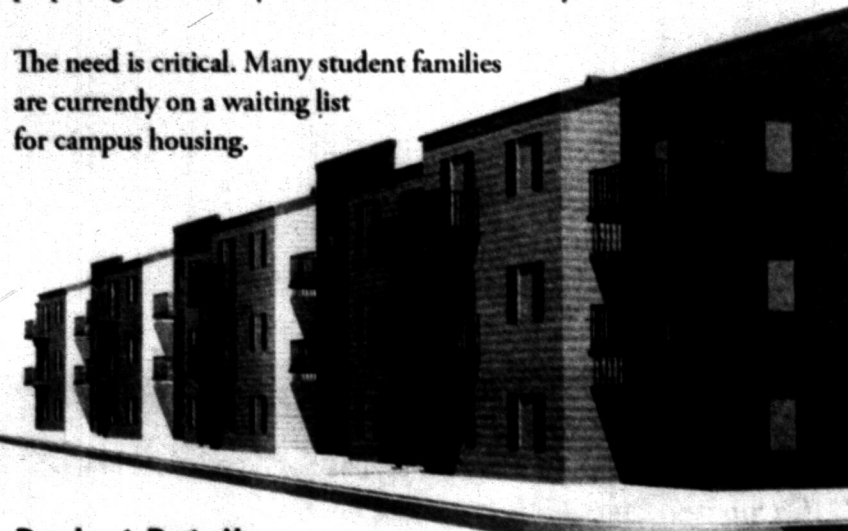
Giving Back to New Orleans Seminary

The Mississippi Manor Project at NOBTS

The Mississippi Manor Project was launched by a group of Baptists in Picayune and is designed to provide funding for a new apartment complex at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Since Hurricane Katrina, when 92 campus apartments were damaged beyond repair, the seminary has faced a housing shortage. Mississippi Manor will provide 36 two-bedroom apartments for student families preparing for ministry at New Orleans Seminary.

The need is critical. Many student families are currently on a waiting list for campus housing.



Project Details

- Cost of Construction: \$5 million
- Building Area: 34,050 SF
- Construction time: 9 months
- Apartment Size: 830 SF
- Sponsor an apartment: \$139,000

Can you help meet this critical need?

For more information about Mississippi Manor or to give to the project, contact Tom Boone in Picayune 1-800-426-1886 or msnobts.bellsouth.net

AIDS buckets headed to Africa's needy



Roger Foster, a member of Brandon Church, Brandon, surveys some of the buckets to be sent to AIDS-affected people in Africa that were assembled at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, on May 28. Mississippi Baptists collected approximately 875 buckets and over \$3100 in donations for the project. Mississippi Baptists partnered with Baptist Global Response (BGR) in Nashville and Singapore to provide what are known as BGR In-Home Care Kits. The five-gallon buckets were packed with items to assist in keeping patients clean and dry, items to protect their mat or mattress from soiling, and vitamins to help keep their immune systems strong. Antifungal and hydrocortisone creams, antibiotic ointment, and medicated lip balm are included to help treat skin problems. The buckets and all items contained were available at Wal-Mart stores. BGR asked Baptists from three pilot states to assist in preparing approximately 2,250 kits, which will fill three 20-foot ocean shipping containers. Other collection points included Tupelo, Oxford, Brookhaven, and Hattiesburg. After collection, all the buckets were loaded onto the truck shown at Garaywa, to be taken to Nashville, then Virginia and ultimately to Africa. (Photo by Tony Martin)

BIBLE DRILLS



1a. Goodwater Church, Magee



1b. Goodwater Church, Magee



2. Goodwater Church, Magee

1. **Goodwater Church, Magee**, recently completed participation in the 2008 Bible Drill program. Pictured are children and youth Bible Drill participants.

2. **Goodwater Church, Magee**, recently recognized its first Bible Drill winner from 1966, Danny Welch (third from left). He is pictured with his four daughters, who have all completed nine years of Bible Drills (from left), DeShea Walker, Dana Duncan, Deidra Baldwin, and Dollie Welch.

3. **Horton Memorial Church, Pontotoc Association**, recognizes a family of Bible drillers. Shown are Tim and Robbie Wilder with children Adam and Abby.

4. **McAdams Church, Attala Association**, recognizes its Bible Buddy, Casy Cloninger. James Young, pastor.

5. **Concord Church, Yazoo County**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front, Emilee Smith and Maeghanne Adams; rear, Morghanne Adams and Taylor Neely.



3. Wilder family, Horton Memorial Church



4. Bible Buddy, McAdams Church



5. Concord Church, Yazoo County

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Friendship Church, McComb**: Revival, July 6 - 9; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Buddy Day, speaker; Todd McDaniel, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.
2. **Oak Grove Church, Lake**: Revival, July 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Allen Stephens, speaker; Ted and Nelda Jones, music; Paul Earley, pastor.
3. **Goodwater Church, Forest**: Homecoming, July 13, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and cemetery association meeting; Mike Walker and Carolyn Graves, speakers.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Ken Qiu, captain of the **Mississippi College** table tennis team, won a second place trophy at the Pensacola Summer Open tournament. Andy Kaneniser, university news coordinator and MC table tennis club sponsor, received a first place trophy for the "B" division.
2. Mark Hugh Malone, dean of the Winters School of Music at **William Carey University**, received the Ernestine Ferrell Award for Excellence in Choral Music recently from the Mississippi Music Educators and American Choral Directors Association. This annual award is given to a educator who has taught more than 20 years in Mississippi and who displays a love for teaching and excellence in choral music.
3. The **William Carey University** Center for Creative Scholars will host the 16th annual Creativity Exploration July 14 through 16 on the Hattiesburg campus for students in grades 2 through 12. The Exploration will be held in the Thomas Business Building. The tuition cost of \$60 includes instructional materials, supplies, refreshments and lunches. Registration is July 14 from 8:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. and the program runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. For more information call (601) 318-6205 or email rdiket@wmcarey.edu.

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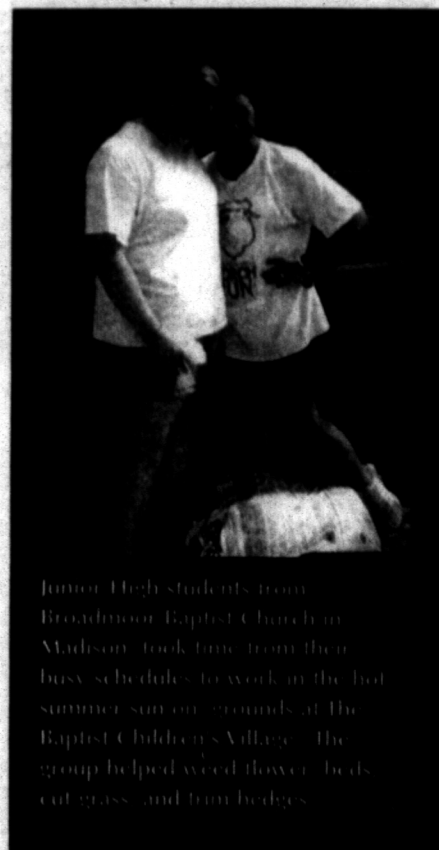
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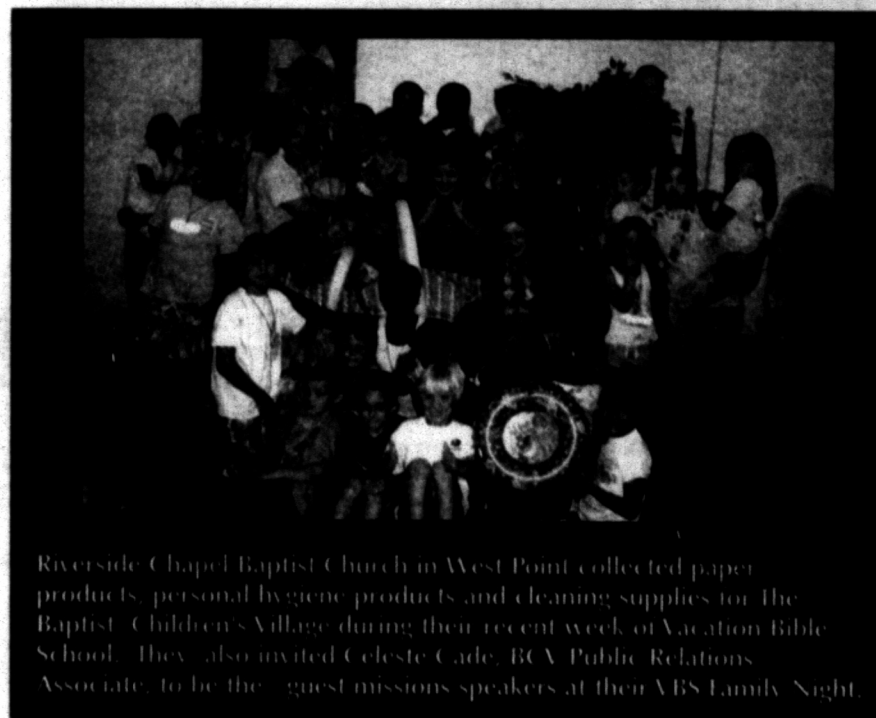
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Junior High students from Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison took time from their busy schedules to work in the hot summer sun on grounds at The Baptist Children's Village. The group helped weed flower beds, cut grass, and trim bushes.



Riverside Chapel Baptist Church in West Point collected paper products, personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies for The Baptist Children's Village during their recent week of Vacation Bible School. They also invited Celeste Cade, BCA Public Relations Associate, to be the guest missions speakers at their VBS Family Night.



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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

If Your Money Could Talk

Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:24-26; 13:11; 15:16-17; 16:11; 23:4-5

By Janice H. Fortenberry

Ask any adult about money and I think you will hear the same thing: "I don't have enough." It takes so much to live these days that making money to provide for our families is a constant concern. So what should be our attitude about money? How can we maintain a balance between pressing needs and trusting God's ability to provide?

This lesson is designed to help us exhibit Godly wisdom in our everyday lives in how we earn and use money. Where our money goes, how we get it and the value we place on it speaks volumes about each of us.

The first of the focal passages (3:9-10 and 15:16-17) clearly underscores that we are to acknowledge that all blessings come from God. The Law of

Moses required the Israelites to give the first portion of crops to the priests to be offered as a gift to God during what was known as the Feast of First Fruits (Lev. 2:14; 23:9-14). This ceremony reminded the people of how God provides.

We should be reminded in this day and age as well. Everything we have is a blessing from God. We should be eager to return some of what we make to Him in humble gratitude.

Secondly, we are to never fall in love with money (23:4-5). Yes, there are wonderful things that money can buy. It's important, however, to realize that money cannot buy the most important things in life. It cannot buy true joy and contentment; it cannot buy health; and it cannot buy love. So we are to "give up trying so hard to get rich." (23:4 CEV)



Fortenberry

the currency is selfless love.

Another caution about money is to earn it honestly (13:11; 16:11). We show wisdom and please God by earning money through diligent work and fair practices. These verses carry a word of warning: Get your money the wrong way and you stand to lose more than you gain.

We all know wealthy people who have succeeded through fraudulent practices. On the surface they appear successful. But a question begs: How do they feel on the inside? Are they content or are they constantly looking over their shoulders?

A related proverb carries a stern warning for getting money

the wrong way: "Cheating to get rich is a foolish dream and no less than suicide." (21:6 CEV) Cheating kills character, it kills relationships and it kills self-respect. Given what's at stake, I'm not sure dishonest dollars are worth it. The price tag for wrongfully gained success may be entirely too high.

And, finally, we are to be eager to give more than we take (11:24-26). Few characteristics are as sweet as a generous spirit—the willingness to give freely with no strings attached. Generosity can take several forms. It may involve money but it can take other forms as well, such as time and genuine concern. Regardless, giving to others always enriches the giver if the giving is done with the right motive.

How does it enrich us? Doing for others helps to develop unselfishness. When we shift our gaze from our own travails to the needs of others we always have much to gain. It not only pleases God, it helps us learn to love in a greater dimension and to live beyond ourselves.

And what is the right motive?

We should never give to others just to benefit ourselves. Our love—and generosity—should be without condition, without the need for recognition and without a boastful attitude.

And what is the benefit of generosity? The answer is in the last part of verse 25: "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." (NIV)

Yes, it takes a lot of money to live these days. According to 2007 data from the World Bank's International Comparison Program, the United States ranked 20th among the world's most expensive economies. The pressure is on all of us to make as much money as possible to provide for such things as healthcare, housing, long-term care of the elderly and education for our children without losing ground financially.

When do we have "just enough money?" We are in proper balance when the challenges of acquiring money and using money are tempered and guided by Godly wisdom.

Fortenberry is a member of First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Paul: Total Commitment

Acts 9:15-22, 26-30

By W. Wayne VanHorn

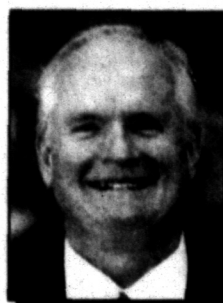
The past two weeks we have studied people who shared their faith with boldness and consistency. However, neither Stephen nor Philip had formally theological training. This week's lesson focuses on Paul, a man who had the highest quality training in the theology of Judaism. Initially, the early church grew primarily by receiving converts from Judaism. The Jewish leaders believed Christians were perverting the Law of Moses and leading people astray from the truth. They opposed the early church and sought to counter its growth by persecuting Christians.

No one was a more ardent opponent of the early church than Paul, also known as Saul of Tarsus. He was a strong advocate of the theological teachings of Judaism. This week's lesson relates the conversion of Paul to Christ and his corresponding shift from being an ardent

defender of Judaism to being a committed proponent of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. Make a Faith Commitment (Acts 9:15-19a) (ends with "strength")

Paul was on his way to Damascus, the capitol of Syria, with orders to arrest Christians. Just outside the city, he encountered the risen Lord. He lost his physical sight but found his spiritual sight. The Lord sent Ananias, a believer living in Damascus, to aid Paul in regaining his physical sight, but also to help him understand his new spiritual orientation. The Lord instructed Ananias that he had chosen Paul to carry his name "to the Gentiles and kings and sons of Israel" (Acts 9:15; NASB). Ironically, Paul, the one who had caused so many Christians to suffer, had become a Christian and who suffer much because of his stance for Jesus



VanHorn

2. Demonstrate Commitment (Acts 9:19b-21)

The impact of Paul's conversion on his actions was immediate. Instead of persecuting Christians, he fellowshipped with them. Instead of denouncing Jesus as a false messiah, he proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 9:19b-20). Paul openly advocated for Jesus in the Jewish synagogue, the place of both enthused converts and entrenched opponents. Some who heard Paul speak in the synagogue were confused by his new allegiance. Supporters of Judaism had to wonder how to deal with a man who until recently was a staunch opponent of Christianity but who now openly proclaimed Jesus. Christians had to wonder whether his conversion was gen-

uine or a ruse to entrap Christians? No matter how he was received Paul demonstrated commitment to Jesus by faithfully sharing the Gospel.

3. Grow in Commitment (Acts 9:22)

One characteristic that ensured the genuineness of Paul's conversion was the continued growth in his commitment to Christ. Paul grew "more and more powerful" in his ability to persuasively argue from the Hebrew Scriptures that Jesus was the messiah. The term "proving" (NASB) literally means "to knit together." Paul was figuratively knitting together arguments from the Jewish Bible that Jesus was the Christ. He became so effective in outdebating the Jews that he was "confounding" them, or causing them uncertainty about their blind trust in Judaism (Acts 9:22; NASB). Their minds were disturbed like the soil of a newly plowed field into which Paul would plant the seeds of the Gospel.

4. Show Intense Commitment (Acts 9:26-30)

Paul journeyed back to Jerusalem a changed man. When he had left for Damascus he was

intensely committed to Judaism and opposed to Christianity; as he returned to Jerusalem, he was intensely committed to Christianity and prayerful that Jews would accept Christ. In Jerusalem he faced skeptical Christians reluctant to extend the right hand of fellowship. He also faced a life-threatening opposition from Hellenistic Jews who viewed him as a traitor. Through all of these experiences, Paul preached boldly "in the name of Jesus" (Acts 9:27-29).

This week's lesson teaches Christians today to renew their commitment to Jesus. We should pray for and witness to those who oppose Christ and his church. Who knows, perhaps one of our greatest opponents today, will become the next Paul. By keeping our eyes on Jesus, we will be able to cope with the skepticism of fellow Christians and the hostility of non-believers. By allowing God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, our lives for Christ will be characterized by total commitment.

VanHorn is dean of the School of Christian Studies & the Arts at Mississippi College and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and

white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution

items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Longtime women's leader Alma Hunt dies at age 98

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Alma Hunt, a passionate and influential leader who served as Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) executive secretary for 26 years, died June 14. She was 98 years of age.

The wMu family and extended Christian community remember her as the face of wMu as she led the national missions organization from October 1948 until October 1974.

In her autobiography, Hunt mused, "Work never allowed me time to take trips for pleasure only, yet it afforded me great pleasure. It never allowed me to

take much time with my friends, but it kept me in touch with friends all the time. It never allowed me to have hobbies, but it became my hobby. In reflection, the years as WMU executive secretary seem one continuous string of adventures."

Under her leadership, wMu membership rose to more than 1.5 million as she propelled wMu into the future.

Several other events also marked Hunt's tenure: the first National Acteens Convention was held at Glorieta, N.M.; the first issue of wMu's Spanish-language Nuestra Tarea was published; the Lottie Moon Christmas

Offering goal first exceeded two million dollars; and Community Missions was renamed Mission Action.

There were other significant renaming projects as well: Woman's Missionary Society, Young Woman's Auxiliary, Girls' Auxiliary and Sunbeam organizations were reorganized and renamed as Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Acteens, Girls in Action and Mission Friends.

"Alma Hunt was an energetic and dynamic leader who helped move wMu forward, expanding its reach into Baptist churches with record growth for the cause of missions," said Wanda S.

Lee, executive director of national wMu. "She was a truly amazing woman who selflessly served others and actively sought to develop women leaders. Her efforts directly helped to shape wMu into the premier resource for missions education and involvement that it is today in Baptist churches."

Hunt was born on Oct. 5, 1909, in Virginia's Appalachians, the daughter of William and Mary Hunt -- Virginia natives who helped spark her fire for missions. Her ardor took root at First Church in Roanoke, where Hunt's father served as a deacon.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Holcomb and Wilson, Poplar Springs Church

1. **Poplar Springs Church, Golden,** honored pastor Charles Holcomb on his 15th year as pastor. Shown is Holcomb, left, with Ross Wilson, presenting a plaque.

2. **Steele Church, Forest,** recently held a baby dedication. Shown are pastor Reggie Williams and Trent, Renee, and Camdon Crimm.

3. **Macedonia Church, Mendenhall,** honored their graduates May 18 with Bibles, a special service, and reception. Shown, from left, are Joseph Snellgrove, Brianna Blair, Jon McLeod, and Lori Snellgrove.



2. Baby dedication, Steele Church

4. **Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association,** honored their high school and college graduates June 18. Pastor Robert E. Walker presented Bibles to (from left) Bryce Kuyknedall, Garret Mauney, Lucas Gaillard, Holly Hurt, and Hope Jumper.

5. **Calvary Church, Braxton,** ordained Allen Sanders, Jr., Colin Sheppard, and Michael Raines as deacons. Shown are pastor Eric Brown, Sanders, Sheppard, and Raines.



4. Concord Baptist Church, Benton-Tippah Association



5. Deacon ordination, Calvary Church

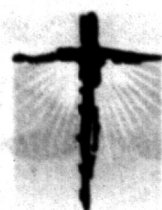


3. Graduates, Macedonia Church

6. The RAs and GAs of **Bovina Church, Vicksburg,** recently participated in the RAs Racer Rally, with the RAs asking for sponsors to raise money for the children's home in Honduras, raising over \$800. The GAs won most of the races. Shown are the participants.



6. RAs and GAs, Bovina Church



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